

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 275

June 21, 1995, 3:47 p.m.
Page S-8761 Temp. Record

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM/Federal Health Care & Motorcycle Helmets

SUBJECT: National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 . . . S. 440. Snowe motion to table the Chafee/Hutchison perfecting amendment No. 1443 to the Snowe amendment No. 1442.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 60-39

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 440, the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995, will designate the National Highway System in accordance with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Failure to enact the bill by September 30, 1995, will result in all States losing their National Highway System and Interstate Maintenance funding.

The Snowe Amendment would strike the reference to mandatory motorcycle helmet laws from section 153 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). That section sanctions States that do not adopt mandatory seat belt laws and motorcycle helmet laws by requiring them to transfer a portion of their annual transportation fund allocations to safety programs. In 1995, the percent that a non-complying State must transfer is 1.5 percent. In 1996 and beyond, 3 percent must be transferred.

The Chafee/Hutchison perfecting amendment to the Snowe amendment would provide that for a State to be exempt from transferring funds as required under ISTEA because it does not have a mandatory motorcycle helmet law, it must agree to assume any Federal cost incurred in providing medical care to treat motorcycle injuries to the extent those injuries are caused by the failure to wear motorcycle helmets.

During debate, Senator Snowe moved to table the Chafee/Hutchison amendment. The motion to table is not debatable; however, some debate preceded the making of the motion. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

NOTE: The Senate earlier failed to table the Snowe amendment (see vote No. 274). Following the tabling of the Chafee/Hutchison amendment, the Snowe amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (60)			NAYS (39)			NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans (45 or 85%)	Democrats (15 or 33%)		Republicans (8 or 15%)	Democrats (31 or 67%)		Republicans (1)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Inhofe	Baucus	Bond	Akaka	Kennedy	McCain- ²	
Ashcroft	Jeffords	Bingaman	Chafee	Biden	Kerrey		
Bennett	Kassebaum	Boxer	Faircloth	Breaux	Kerry		
Brown	Kempthorne	Bradley	Gorton	Bryan	Lautenberg		
Burns	Kyl	Conrad	Gramm	Bumpers	Levin		
Campbell	Lott	Daschle	Hutchison	Byrd	Lieberman		
Coats	Lugar	Dorgan	Mack	Dodd	Mikulski		
Cochran	McConnell	Exon	Specter	Feinstein	Moynihan		
Cohen	Murkowski	Feingold		Ford	Murray		
Coverdell	Nickles	Graham		Glenn	Pell		
Craig	Packwood	Kohl		Harkin	Pryor		
D'Amato	Pressler	Leahy		Heflin	Reid		
DeWine	Roth	Moseley-Braun		Hollings	Robb		
Dole	Santorum	Nunn		Inouye	Rockefeller		
Domenici	Shelby	Wellstone		Johnston	Sarbanes		
Frist	Simpson				Simon		
Grams	Smith						
Grassley	Snowe						
Gregg	Stevens						
Hatch	Thomas						
Hatfield	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
	Warner						
						EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:	
						1—Official Business	
						2—Necessarily Absent	
						3—Illness	
						4—Other	
						SYMBOLS:	
						AY—Announced Yea	
						AN—Announced Nay	
						PY—Paired Yea	
						PN—Paired Nay	

We have already discussed our rejection of the claim that the Federal Government has a right to involve itself in this State issue because some motorcycle accident victims who do not wear helmets receive medical treatment from Medicaid and Medicare (see vote No. 271). We will, of course, support the motion to table this amendment.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

We strongly favor the current Federal law that is designed to entice States into adopting mandatory motorcycle helmet laws, though apparently we are not in the majority in this sentiment (see vote No. 274). One of the reasons for our support of this law is that we do not think that the Federal Government should have to pay for injuries that result from the failure to have mandatory helmet laws. Currently, many motorcycle accident victims who sustain head injuries because they are not wearing helmets end up being treated under Medicaid or Medicare. Apparently, many Senators who do not favor trying to force States to adopt mandatory helmet laws agree with us that the Federal Government should not have to pay for the injuries that result in States from the failure to have such laws. We have therefore offered this amendment. This amendment would not have the Federal Government punish States for failing to adopt mandatory motorcycle helmet laws, but it would have it refuse to pay for the injuries that result. The amendment is fair, and deserves our support.